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## **County seat legislation heads to full Senate**

LANSING – Legislation to modernize the legal guidelines for moving a county’s seat of government was approved and sent to the full Senate today, announced Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau.

McManus and Rep. David Palsrok, R-Manistee, testified in support of HB 5641 today before the Senate Committee on Local, Urban, and State Affairs. McManus is sponsoring similar legislation, SB 1122, which will come before the committee for consideration next week.

“The people should have a say on the location of their county government, but current law doesn’t provide a way for county residents to vote on such decisions,” McManus said. “These bills will allow the people of Leelanau County to choose their county seat.”

House Bill 5641 would update the legal guidelines for moving a county seat, giving county voters a say over whether their county seat is moved. The bill was introduced after county commissioners in Leelanau County began studying options to establish a new government center in the county.

The current law, which dates back to the 1850s, requires county commissioners to allow the public to vote on any proposal to move their county seat at the “annual meeting of township residents.” The state hasn’t required annual township meetings since 1963.

HB 5641 is expected to be before the Senate for a vote late next week.

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**Editors note:** A downloadable photo from the hearing is available on Sen. McManus’ Photowire at [www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/McManus/McManus.htm](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/McManus/McManus.htm).